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May 13, 2013

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0001

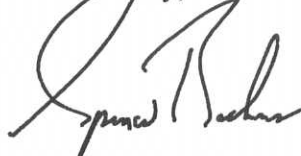
Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for moving so quickly to announce a hearing to investigate revelations that Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees targeted organizations for special scrutiny and potentially discriminatory tax treatment based on their political beliefs.

Since the IRS made its initial admission on Friday that groups with "tea party" and "patriot" in their names were subject to heightened scrutiny and delays in the evaluation of their applications for tax-exempt status, there have been additional reports in the media which have only deepened my grave concerns about the agency's behavior in this matter. The tax authority granted to the IRS is among the most sensitive of powers delegated to any federal agency. It absolutely cannot be used as an instrument of political favoritism or intimidation. Regardless of personal philosophy, every American who cherishes the right of free speech and engagement in the democratic process should be outraged by the disclosures to date.

Please know that you have my complete support as the formal process begins to uncover all of the facts related to this sordid story and ensure full accountability at every level. The American people need to know that actions of this type will not be downplayed, explained away, or tolerated in any fashion. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

STB